

Was I at the Dentist Today?...Sedation Dentistry

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Want to know a secret? Dentistry does not have to be painful—or scary.

It's important to know that a visit to the dentist can be a positive experience, even when treatment is necessary. Millions of Americans, nearly 30%, are afraid of the dentist. They avoid dental care at all costs, even when they are in pain or discomfort. But it no longer has to be that way. Modern dentistry offers safe, effective, and comfortable treatments to anxious and fearful patients.

You may have heard this treatment described in many ways: anxiety-free dentistry, or relaxation dentistry, especially in states where conscious sedation dentistry is regulated. Also used are terms like moderate sedation, oral conscious sedation or even sleep dentistry, though this last should be applied only to general anesthesia. The best and most accurate name is sedation dentistry.

These terms describe a way for you to get the care you want while you remain comfortable. Ask your dentist which level of sedation dentistry he or she is qualified to provide.

Dental fear is a hidden phobia, like many people, you may be embarrassed to admit your fears and even more afraid to confront them. Often times not even your loved ones are aware of your apprehension. Worse yet, you may have never known that sedation dentistry was an option. Not anymore! Sedation Dentistry is not scary and can be pain free.

The use of sedative medications can help make you more comfortable so the dentist and team can work more effectively, accomplishing more in less time with great quality.

Trained sedation dentists have a variety of protocols available to customize for each patient's physiological and pharmacological needs. So even if you have a unique medical condition, there still may be options. A number of sedation dentistry drugs that can be taken by mouth or administered IV have been developed especially for these purposes, subjected to rigorous research and testing, are safe and have been used for decades. Some of these can even help you remember little of the visit, preventing the sounds and smells from lingering in your thoughts.

For more information or to schedule a complimentary consultation about how sedation dentistry can benefit you, visit www.drdell.com or call 661 254-4000.